

**TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA**  
See Back Cover



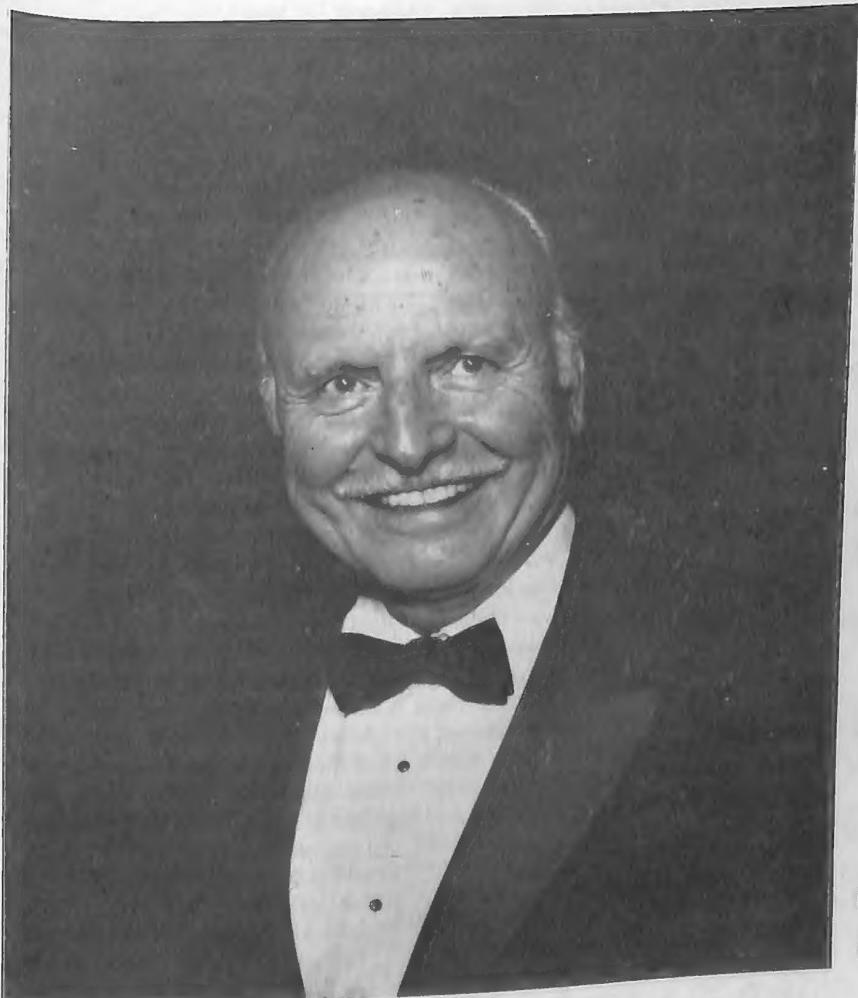
# AMAA

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# News

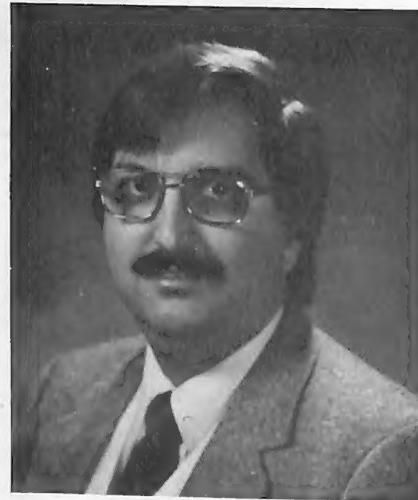
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**GEORGE  
PHILIBOSIAN**

## BUILT ON A STRONG FOUNDATION



Adapted from the sermon of The Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA, delivered at the AMAA 69th Annual Meeting Worship Service on October 23, 1988, at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ.

I must admit that at first I wondered why I should be the speaker for the 69th Annual Meeting Worship Service of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). There are many other Armenian Evangelical pastors present today who have far greater experience with our community in general, and with the AMAA in specific. Then, something occurred to me that made everything seem very appropriate. I realized that I am the only pastor who is the son of a former Executive Secretary of the AMAA.

For me, the AMAA was my father, and my father was the AMAA. Therefore, my image of the AMAA is unique.

My father was a jovial, happy man, and it seemed to me that he was traveling all over the world spreading happiness and joy to people everywhere. He was away from home a lot, but we never resented it. I often wondered how we managed to avoid that kind of resentment. I finally realized that it was because he included us in his work. He told us all about what he was doing, and in some way we felt a part of the ministry we could see him carrying out among our people.

We were too proud to be resentful.

There was one thing, however, that we did resent. Whenever we were bad, my father would pull out his pictures of an orphanage and show us pictures of the poor children being housed there. He would remind us of how lucky we were, and would threaten to send us there if we continued to misbehave.

In the days when my father was with the AMAA, things were very different. They had a tiny office in New York where they worked on an amazingly small budget by today's standards. There was one secretary, and I don't know if she was full-time or part-time. I remember Satenig very well, because she became a part of the family. Our livingroom was the main center of work for the Association. We were the staff. We did much of the folding and stuffing and addressing and mailing. We were very much a part of the work which was going on.

For me, that was a time of heroes. My father was one of those heroes and maybe that is why I am up here on the pulpit today. Yet, he was not alone. There were many heroes in that time. Men and women who weren't afraid to roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty to get the job done. Men and women who traveled, scrapped and scraped until they couldn't give anymore. Men and women of great faith who did it all in the service of Jesus Christ, in order to shine the light of His love on our Armenian people.

It was a time of miraculous provision. In our great time of need, when we were new in this country and needed to establish ourselves, God raised up leaders for us. He gave us heroes who would lay the foundation for future generations. They have prepared the ground, and over the past twenty years or so, we have had the privilege of building even further. Today we have been successful, as a people, and as a community, and the AMAA stands strong as a testimony to what we have achieved.

In Ephesians 2:19-22, the Apostle Paul gives a very powerful analogy of the church. He speaks to the gentiles and assures them of their place within the

fellowship of believers. He describes the church as a temple, being built up as a dwelling place for God. Christ is the cornerstone. The Apostles and Prophets are the foundation. God's people down through the ages are growing into this Holy Temple for the Almighty.

Ever since Christ came to earth, this temple has been under construction. Each generation has provided the building material for another level of the building. Each of us is like a brick, a building block that is a piece of the temple. As we are placed in the structure on top of some other building block of generations past, we are held up by them. In the same way, other building blocks will be placed on top of us, and we must hold them up and provide them with support.

The more I consider this profound concept, the more I realize what a grave responsibility we have.

If Christ's Church is the Holy Temple of God, then we are the Armenian Evangelical Wing of that temple. Each building block in our wing has been placed with great effort and through great struggle, with the blood of martyrs, with the sweat of many brows, and with the giving of those who had little but were willing to give all they had. It has been a difficult, hard fought process, but with the help of God we have not only survived, we have prospered and grown. The Armenian Evangelical Wing of the Temple of God is well underway.

It is easy to identify that building up of our community in terms of organizations like the AMAA and the AEUNA. Yet, the Armenian Evangelical Wing is not made up of organizations. It is made up of people. You and I are the building blocks. It is upon us that the future will be built.

As a young minister within the Union, I feel that we are standing at a crossroad today. We are at a point where we will go one way or the other. Either we will rest on our own laurels, and begin to admire the accomplishments of our own hands, or we will continue to build the temple as God would have us build.

(Cont. on page 6)

## AMAA HONORS MR. GEORGE PHILIBOSIAN

by Ron Tovmassian

The 69th Annual Meeting Banquet of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was the setting for a tribute to Mr. George Philibosian of Englewood, NJ, a man who has served the AMAA, his church and his community for over three decades with energy and dedication. The Banquet took place in the Hekemian Fellowship Hall of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ, on October 22, 1988, with a capacity audience of 300.

The program honoring George Philibosian began with a welcome by Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, NJ, Co-Chairman of the Banquet Committee, and an invocation by The Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian of Drexel Hill, PA.

Following the meal, Mr. Kirk Sermabekian of Saddle River, NJ, the other Co-Chairman of the Banquet Committee, introduced the Mistress of Ceremonies, Ms. Joyce Philibosian Stein of Malibu, CA, who presided over the event. Musical selections, in Armenian and English, with piano accompaniment, were offered by five members of the choir



Dr. George Bezirganian with the Honoree, Mr. George Philibosian.

of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Plaques of recognition and appreciation were presented to outgoing Board members; to Mr. George Philibosian; to Ms. Roseann Saliba, the former Director of the AMAA-supported Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center of Los Angeles, CA; and to Ms. Alice Odian

Kasparian of Belmont, MA, the remarkable woman who survived the massacre of Armenians in Turkey, came to the United States, became one of the first women pharmacists in America and authored a number of books and many articles on Armenian history, culture and traditional handicrafts such as needlelace and embroidery.

## The Inspirational Corner

### ANOTHER "IF"

by Seth Baker

If you can greet a torn and battered brother,  
And make him know and feel that you're his friend;  
If you can share your last loaf with another,  
And stand or go with him to any end;  
If you can ease the load of one who labors,  
By giving him a lift along the road;  
And also sympathize with friends and neighbors—  
The mind doth always bear the heavier load;

If you can lead a life of pure devotion,  
And not adhere to hollow creed or form;  
And have control of self on this life's ocean,  
No matter how, in fury, rage the storm,  
You may not get a medal, diamond centered—  
You may not rate a niche in halls of fame,  
But everyone into whose life you've entered  
Will rise in gratitude and bless your name.

— From Along Life's Highway

If you can watch your every form of action  
Within your home, as well as when without;  
And choose from myriad sources of attraction  
The things that are worth while to think about;  
If you can hold your tongue, and only use it  
For gentle speech, and not for idle show;  
And keep your body clean, and not abuse it—  
This duty to your afterself you owe;

If you can practice truth in all your dealings,  
And make, forever, kindness your creed;  
If you consider other people's feelings  
By all your conduct, both in word and deed;  
If you can be your best with those who know you,  
And also, with the men you chance to meet,  
Be decent to the ones that are below you—  
Nor sneer at them, nor snub them on the street;



The Philibosian Family. Absent is son, Emil.

## GEORGE PHILIBOSIAN A Biographical Sketch

The life and career of George Philibosian of Englewood, NJ, clearly epitomizes the result of diligence and hard work facing challenges and seizing opportunities to realize the American dream of success. Equally important is George's dedication to his fellow man through service to family, church and community, ever giving of himself and his resources in supporting worthwhile causes to improve the lives of others.

George Philibosian was born in Konya, Turkey, on November 15, 1915. The Philibosian family miraculously survived the massacre of Armenians in Turkey and in 1921 emigrated to Romania. There George completed his high school and college education.

The end of World War II found George Philibosian an officer in the Romanian cavalry. Following demobilization and the loss of his first wife, he decided to emigrate to America. In 1948, accompanied by his 3-year-old son, Emil, George Philibosian came to the United States. After experiencing some hard times and several business reverses, he settled in New York and selected real estate as a field that held great promise for growth and success.

In 1951 George Philibosian married Alice Babikian. Today, they are the proud parents of four sons and a daughter: sons Emil and Alan, both attorneys; sons Charles and Stephen, who are active in the family real estate and construction business; and daughter Anita, a dental hygienist. Alan is married to the former Donna Dabagian, Charles to the former Dawn Tramonte and Anita to Dr. Robert Bogossian. Alice has been and continues to be a dynamic and helpful spouse and a source to strength to her family.

The Philibosians are active supporters of many community and service organizations, such as the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Day School

Testimonials to George Philibosian were presented by Albert Momjian, Esq. of Philadelphia, PA; Rev. Karl Avakian, Moderator of the AEUNA; Mr. Nazar Y. Daglian of Lansdowne, PA, former AMAA President; Ms. Anita Bogossian of Leonia, NJ, George's daughter; Dr. George Bezirganian of Middletown, NY, current AMAA President; and The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Black, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Palisades, Teaneck, NJ. Other testimonials included many letters of congratulation, including one from Thomas Kean, Governor of New Jersey, conveyed by Assemblyman Chuck Haytayan, Majority Leader of the New Jersey State

Assembly. On behalf of the AMAA Board of Directors, Mr. H. Hrant Agbabian of Los Angeles, CA, current AMAA Vice President, presented a beautiful watch to Mr. Philibosian, and Ms. Elida N. Telfeyan of Great Neck, NY, current AMAA Vice President, honored Mrs. Alice Philibosian with words of tribute and a beautiful watch.

Following a graceful response by George Philibosian to the honors accorded him, the "Hayr Mer" was sung and the benediction was given by The Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Honorary Executive Director of the AMAA.

The Banquet, a highly successful and enjoyable event, provided a memorable occasion to celebrate George Philibosian's signal contribution to his church and community through his long years of dedicated services to the AMAA.



Mr. Chuck Haytayan presenting New Jersey State Assembly Resolution to Mr. George Philibosian.

## AMAA 69TH ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS CONTINUED PROGRESS IN MISSIONS

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) took place on Sunday, October 23, 1988. It was preceded by four days of meetings and other activities.

On Wednesday, October 19, the Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) held morning, afternoon and evening meetings. The sessions were chaired by Rev. Karl Avakian, the newly elected Moderator of the AEUNA.

Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21, were devoted to two seminars, each with morning and afternoon sessions, attended by about 50 pastors and lay leaders from all over the United States and Canada. Rev. Harry Maghakian and his wife, Judy Maghakian, led the first seminar, whose theme was "Purpose, People, Plan." The second seminar, "People, Problems, Possibilities," was led by Rev. Dr. Ken Ruge. The purpose of the seminars was to broaden the outlook and knowledge of our church leaders by open discussion and exchange of ideas.

The AMAA/AEUNA Joint Home Mission Committee (JHMC) met on Thursday evening, October 20, to review its work and discuss plans for next year. The



Conference prior to the Annual Meeting (from left): Rev. Moses B. Janbazian, Executive Director; Attorney Albert Momjian, Solicitor; Dr. George Bezirganian, President; and Mr. Millard Bekmezian, Recording Secretary.

Bezirganian, President of the AMAA, and were attended by about 40 Board members, pastors and invited guests.

On the afternoon of October 22, the Trustees of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation met under the leadership of Joyce Philibosian Stein, who heads the Board of Trustees. This Foundation is based in California and works closely with both the AMAA and the AEUNA. It serves Arme-



Participants in the AMAA 69th Annual Meeting Retreat/Seminar

nian interests worldwide through scholarships and support for Armenian educational, service and mission organizations.

The AMAA's 69th Annual Meeting Banquet took place that same evening, October 22, in the Hekemian Hall of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ. This year the guest of honor was Mr. George Philibosian, a man who has served the AMAA, as well as other organizations and causes, with dedication and distinction for over three decades.

Sunday, October 23, began with a worship service at the Armenian

Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. The pastor of the church, Rev. Karl Avakian, served as liturgist while the English and Armenian sermons were delivered by Rev. Ron Tovmassian and Rev. Daniel Albarian, respectively.

The last event of the five-day program was the general session of the 69th Annual Meeting of the AMAA. The meeting was conducted by Dr. George Bezirgianian, President of the AMAA. Reports of the officers, administrators, committees and affiliated organizations were presented and discussed. It was noted that the assets of the AMAA increased

during the past fiscal year from \$26 million to \$28 million and the Association's budget was raised from \$1.7 million to \$2.1 million.

The five-day schedule took place as planned, providing ample opportunities for fellowship and edification, as well as deliberations and new actions on current issues related to the work of the AMAA. The planning of the five-day schedule is a tribute to the dedication and efficiency of the AMAA headquarters staff and the volunteers from the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

## BUILT ON A STRONG FOUNDATION (cont. from page 2)

remarks as, "What a shame!" "He had so much potential!" "He was a smart boy!" "He could have been anything he wanted."

Why is it that if a senior in High School or a freshman in College indicates a desire to enter ministry, we say it is too early for them to decide? Yet, if that same person indicates an interest in becoming a doctor, or a lawyer, or an engineer, we enroll them right away in some program before they change their minds.

Going into Christian Service should be the highest calling for our young people if we are truly the people of God.

We must use our churches and our organizations as tools, to build and shape our young men and women into a Holy Temple of God, a Dwelling Place of the Most High.

These goals will not be reached

Why is it that in our whole Armenian Evangelical Union of the United States and Canada we do not have a single candidate for the ministry in seminary right now?

Why is it that the young people who have decided to go into the ministry over the past few years have faced ridicule and anger from parents and friends because of their decisions? As a result, most of these young people are not in the ministry today.

Why is it that my own mother, when she told her friends about my decision to enter seminary, had to suffer such

through the AMAA offices or the AEUNA Board of Directors or the Churches alone. These goals will be pursued in our homes; too. We must come out of the closets where we keep our personalized and privatized and sterilized faith, and begin to have family devotions in which we give leadership and directions to our children, for they are the future building blocks of the Armenian Wing of the Temple of God. They lie sleeping right now in our cradles and in our nurseries. They are playing and laughing in our Sunday Schools and our Youth Groups.

I only pray that one day they will look back on us, on our faith and our strength of character, with the same respect and gratitude that we have as we look back upon the heroes of the generation before us.

## DR. HRAIR PHILIP HOVNANIAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMAA

At the November 12, 1988, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Dr. Hrair Philip Hovnanian of Riverdale, NY, was unanimously elected President of the AMAA for 1988-89 year.

Dr. Hovnanian has had a long commitment to Armenian Evangelical life. He has served the AMAA as Chairman of the Haigazian College Eastern Committee, as a member of the AMAA's Board of Directors and its Executive Committee, and as a member of such committees as Investment, Budget/Finance, Audio-Visual and Constitution/Bylaws. He has served as Moderator and Trustee of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA, and the Congregational Church of Huntington, NY, and is currently the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

Dr. Hovnanian comes from a long line of Armenian Evangelicals. His father, Philip Hovnanian, M.D., was a national hero who saved hundreds of Armenian lives during World War I by utilizing his privileged position in Turkey as Head of the German Hospital of the Berlin-Baghdad Railway.

Dr. Hovnanian was born in Aleppo, Syria. When he was six his mother (nee Rosa Jebejian) died. Later, his father married Lydia Kalfayan. Thus, his stepmother nurtured him during his formative years; she now lives in Los Angeles. During his formative years in Aleppo, Dr. Hovnanian considers his paternal grandmother's Christian influence and love as paramount and all-pervasive; she was the widow of Rev. Hagop Koundakjian, a martyred Armenian pastor.

Dr. Hovnanian married Siran Norian in 1948 in Winchester, MA. They have two daughters: Janice Moore, a Manhattan advertising agency executive, and Joan, who teaches in a handicapped school; and one son, John, who is President of his own Executive Search firm in New York City.

Professionally, Dr. Hovnanian is a physicist/engineer who until recently was Corporate Vice President of Cavitron Corp. and its successor, Cooper



Laboratories. He is a Fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (London), a Charter Physicist (UK), P.E. (NY, MA), and Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Electrosurgery. He has served on Food and Drug Administration advisory panels on Medical Devices (Ophthalmic, ENT, Dental and OB/GYN). He has been a Research Associate in Surgical Research at Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Boston, MA. He was recently awarded the title of Honorary Fellow by the American Academy of Dental Electrosurgery for his technical and scientific contributions to the development of standards of performance of dental electrosurgical systems and their designs.

Other officers of the AMAA elected on November 12 are: Mr. Sam Mardian, Jr.

of Phoenix, AZ, and Mrs. Elida N. Telfeyan of Great Neck, NY, Vice Presidents; Mr. Aram Minnetian of Westwood, NJ, Treasurer; Mr. Vahram Aynilian of Alpine, NJ, Assistant Treasurer; and Mr. Millard Bekmezian of Upper Darby, PA, and Mr. Harry Dulgarian of Belmont, MA, Recording Secretaries.

The newly elected members of the Board of Directors of AMAA include: Dr. Ara Apelian of Monmouth Junction, NJ; Rev. Mr. Nerses Aynilian of Tenafly, NJ; Rev. Nishan Bakalian of San Francisco, CA; Dr. Sarkis Kalfayan of La Canada, CA;



Clockwise: Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, the newly elected President of the AMAA, and Vice Presidents, Mrs. Elida N. Telfeyan, and Mr. Sam Mardian.

Mr. Anton Toronian of Quebec, Canada; Rev. Ron Tovmassian of Watertown, MA; Mrs. Juliette Vartanian of Chicago, IL; Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian of Royal Oak, MI; and Mrs. Michele Simourian of Boston, MA. These newly elected members will complete the 29-member AMAA Board of Directors which governs the Association.

Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian feels that the opportunity for service that he faces as President of the AMAA is one of the most challenging in his entire life.

## AMAA PURCHASES CHURCH IN HOLLYWOOD

In pursuance of a momentous resolution of its Board of Directors, the AMAA recently purchased a church building in Hollywood, CA, valued at \$500,000. The building, which previously served as a Baptist church, will be used as the permanent quarters of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, a major AMAA-funded mission project in the United States.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA, began as a Christian outreach ministry in 1981, sponsored and supported by the AMAA, the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and the Evangelical churches of Southern California. During the first year of its ministry, the outreach was led by Rev. Apraham Jizmejian of Toronto, Canada. In 1982, however, the outreach was formally organized into a church with The Rev. Apraham Chaparian as its pastor. Thanks to the financial support of the AMAA and the encouragement of the AEUNA and sister churches in the Los Angeles area, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood continued to grow and expanded its activities among the burgeoning Armenian population of Hollywood, composed mostly of immigrants and refugees from Soviet Armenia and the Middle East.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood has been renting space in other churches for its worship services and auxiliary activities. However, thanks to the AMAA's recent acquisition of this church building, the Armenian



*The new and permanent quarters of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA. Gift of the AMAA.*

Evangelical Church of Hollywood will have its permanent home at 4950 Franklin Street in an attractive, tree-lined residential section of Hollywood.

The building has a chapel that can accommodate 200 worshipers. It also has five classrooms, a sound studio and an office for the pastor. Its basement is suitable for meetings and recreational activities. The property also has a separate building that may serve as a youth center or for other activities, and there is ample parking space on the neighboring streets.

In commenting about the acquisition of the new church building, Rev. Chaparian, the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, said, "We have been praying for many years

for a permanent home for our church, and God finally answered our patient and ardent prayers through this generous provision by the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Our entire congregation is overwhelmed with joy, and we are deeply grateful to the Board of Directors and supporting members of the Armenian Missionary Association of America."

This unprecedented action was taken by the AMAA because a suitable building in the right location became available, the purchase price of \$500,000 appeared reasonable, and the importance of this mission ministry among our people in Hollywood called for prompt action to meet its critical needs.

## HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE UPDATE

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been and continues to be a strong supporter, financially and spiritually, of Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon. This institution was established in 1955 to serve the higher educational needs of the Armenian communities in the Middle East. Despite the prolonged turmoil and uncertainty in Lebanon, Haigazian College has managed, in the face of 13 years of overwhelming difficulties, not only to survive, but to

continue its vital service to the Armenian community.

This year the annual joint meeting of Haigazian College's Board of Managers—based in Beirut—and its Board of Trustees—based in Los Angeles—took place on August 20, 1988, at the Burbank Hilton Hotel. The Trustees were represented by Chairman Dr. Rendel Levonian and 14 members, and the number of Managers present was six.

The AMAA was represented by the

Executive Director, Rev. M.B. Janbazian; Vice President, Mr. H. Hrant Agbabian; and Board Members, Mr. Nazar Daghlian and Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian. Also present was the Administrative Dean of the College, Wilma Cholakian, who presented a status report outlining the current situation at Haigazian College. The following excerpts, slightly abridged, are taken from her report:

"The 1987-88 academic year ended on a cheerful note. For the first time in four

years, a Commencement Exercise was held. The ceremony took place in the auditorium of the Christian Medical Center campus, where 25 graduating students received their degrees in the presence of a packed audience.

"Earlier this year the College made the difficult decision to close its West Beirut branch for the 1988-89 academic year. This action was necessitated by the fact that since the fighting in Beirut began in 1975, Armenians steadily moved out of the area and enrollment at the West Beirut campus steadily declined. In 1985, when Haigazian East opened, total enrollment at Haigazian had dropped to 198 students. Today, at Haigazian East,

enrollment has increased to 334 students (including 224 Armenians).

The move to East Beirut was not without cost. The Christian Medical Center (CMC) building, the principal structure of the East Beirut campus, required extensive remodeling. Other major costs included renovating another building, establishing a Computer Center, assembling Biology and Chemistry laboratories, and acquiring new computers and additional books for the library.

Almost all of Haigazian's foreign faculty members have left the country for personal safety. In response to this situation, remaining faculty members have agreed to carry heavier teaching loads and part-

time instructors have been recruited from the faculty of the American University of Beirut's East Beirut branch."

The participants in the joint meeting discussed these and other matters pertaining to Haigazian College's current problems and future status. One result of this meeting was a resolution to hold a special conference next May to evaluate and assess the goals of Haigazian College and redefine its mission in the light of present circumstances. One principle, however, is expected to remain intact: No Armenian student eligible to enter Haigazian College shall be denied an education because he or she lacks the necessary funds.



*Some of the participants in the Joint Meeting of Haigazian College Board of Trustees and Board of Managers.*

## ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) met on August 1 and 2, 1988, in the newly dedicated Ani Cultural Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont, France. The Committee reviewed and acted upon a number of issues, according to Rev. Vahan Tootikian, Secretary of the Council, among them the following:

1. The placement of Armenian Evangelical religious workers or missionaries

for Christian outreach and ministry in churches with vacant pulpits or special needs.

2. Archives of the Armenian Evangelical Movement should be established and housed at a central location, perhaps at the Headquarters of the AMAA.

3. Provision should be made for the financial stability and welfare of the AEWC.

4. Guidelines should be prepared relative to the preparation of ministers.

5. The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church, which will occur in 1996, should be commemorated by special celebrations, observances and publications.

6. The Council will prepare a resolution concerning the Karabagh province and Soviet Armenia.

7. The next meeting of the Armenian Evangelical World Council will be held in Athens, Greece, in August, 1989.



# STOP PRESS . . . An Urgent Appeal

## PLEASE . . . HELP ALLIVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA

On Wednesday, December 7, 1988, a severe earthquake struck heavily populated areas of Soviet Armenia. Reports from Moscow indicate that the earthquake, the strongest ever to hit the region, has caused indescribable destruction. The latest reports from Armenia indicate a death toll of at least 100,000 Armenians. The final toll is likely to be much higher as survivors succumb to injuries, cold and disease.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has responded to this tragedy by establishing a special **Armenian Earthquake Relief Fund** and is actively engaged in raising support for immediate and long-term assistance.

The AMAA is coordinating its efforts with those of other Armenian churches and organizations in order to avoid duplication and provide relief as expeditiously and effectively as possible.

The response to this tragedy by the Armenian-American community is unprecedented and the help extended by sympathetic non-Armenian individuals, churches, mission agencies, corporations and service organizations has been overwhelming.



Sorrow—Armenian women weep for their dead family members, killed when the cataclysmic earthquake hit Armenia.

We earnestly appeal to our members and friends as well as colleague agencies to respond to this emergency by contributing generously to the **AMAA Relief Fund for Armenia** to help alleviate the suffering of the survivors of this tragedy.

Your gift can make a difference! Please rush your help! Send your Tax deductible check to:

**Armenian Missionary Association  
of America**

**Armenian Earthquake Relief Fund**

140 Forest Avenue  
Paramus, NJ 07652

Phone: (201) 265 - 2607

Please also pray that God will strengthen our nation in these trying times and reach out to the survivors with His healing mercies.

**Armenian Missionary Association of America**  
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